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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,732	07/08/2003	Glen Keith Russell	4164-307	1813
20575	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER	
MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			NGUYEN, KIM T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	
DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,732

Applicant(s)

RUSSELL ET AL.

Examiner

Kim T. Nguyen

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of the amendment on 12/7/05. According to the amendment, claims 17-20 have been added, and claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a) In claim 2, lines 1-2, the claimed limitation "the at least two gaming components" is ambiguous. It is not clear if the two gaming components are among the at least three gaming components in claim 1, line 3, or if the two gaming components are different from the at least three gaming components in claim 1, line 3. Further, the limitation "the at least two gaming components" in lines 1-2 is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

- b) Claims 3 and 6 are rejected as being dependent on the rejected base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hand et al (US 2004/0238319).

Regarding to claims 1 and 3, Hand discloses a gaming system comprising a hostless communication link (SPI bus in Fig. 4; paragraphs 0026 and 0032); three gaming components (enhanced bezel 92 (Fig. 4), validator or bill acceptor 12 (Fig. 4), and PDA or portable computer 100 (Fig. 4)); each gaming component comprises a controller (paragraphs 0027-0028, and it would have been well known that a PDA or portable computer also includes a controller); a communication interface (paragraph 0031); and a connector 90 (Fig. 4) (interface board to outside world). Hand does not explicitly disclose allowing the controllers of the gaming components to communicate peer to peer with other controllers of other gaming components. However, since Hand discloses the capability of transferring data directly between the components without a master controller to control the communications (Fig. 4; lines 7-9 of paragraph 0027 and paragraph 0032), Hand obviously encompasses teaching allowing communication between controllers on a peer-to-peer basis in order to facilitate direct communications between controllers.

Regarding to claim 2, Hand discloses a game processing unit (paragraph 0020).

Regarding to claim 4, Hand discloses a bill validator (paragraph 0022), a game processing unit 20 (Fig. 4) and a light display (bezel 92 in Fig. 4).

Regarding to claims 5-6, since Hand discloses transferring data between the bill acceptor and the enhanced bezel (paragraph 0027), Hand obviously encompasses teaching a link for transferring data between the bill acceptor and the enhanced bezel.

Regarding to claim 7, Hand discloses a second communication link for communication between the components in the cabinet and components outside the cabinet (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0031-0032).

Regarding to claims 8-10, adding or removing a component while power is on; providing power to a game component, and using IEEE 1394 link would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Regarding to claims 11 and 13, refer to discussion in claims 1 and 5-6 above. Further, Hand discloses two gaming components (enhanced bezel, validator or bill acceptor) in the cabinet and one component located outside the cabinet (PDA or portable computer 100 in Fig. 4); an exterior hostless communications link for allowing the gaming components in the cabinet to communicate with the gaming component outside the cabinet (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0031-0032); and a bridge 90 (Fig. 4) (interface board to outside world). Hand does not explicitly disclose arranging the gaming components for communicating with other gaming components in a peer-to-peer fashion without a host. However, Fig. 4 discloses three components 12, 92 and 100 communicated directly without a host (paragraphs 0027 and 0032). Hand further discloses that the gaming components can be connected to each other (Fig. 4). Hand obviously encompasses the obviousness of connecting the gaming components to each other peer-to-peer in order to facilitate direct connection between the components.

Regarding to claims 12 and 14-16, implementing a game processing unit to gaming components, using IEEE 1394 back plane or cable communication bus, and providing power to an external device would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Regarding to claims 17-19, implementing specific gaming components outside a game device such as a card reader, a video light or a video camera would have been both well-known and obvious design choice according to a game designer's need in order to provide more functions to the game device.

Regarding to claim 20, since Hand discloses a PDA or portable computer 100 located outside the cabinet and since it would have been well known that the PDA or portable computer includes data storage, Hand obviously encompasses teaching external data storage located outside the cabinet of the gaming device.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument in pages 8 and 9, Hand discloses three components, i.e. enhanced bezel, validator or bill acceptor, and PDA or portable computer 100, directly communicates with each other (Fig. 4; paragraphs 0027 and 0032). Specifically, in Fig. 4, the bill acceptor 12 and the bezel 92 communicates with each other via the SPI bus, and the bill acceptor 12 and the bezel 92 communicate with the PDA 100 via the SPI bus 94 (Fig. 4) and the IrDA transceiver 38 (Fig. 4).

Further, refer to the 35 USC 103(a) rejections on claims 1 and 11 on the subject matter peer-to-peer communications among the three components.

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications; please mark
"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza II,
Arlington, VA Second Floor (Receptionist).

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai, can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

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Date: March 14, 2006



Kim Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3713